

CLAIMS

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is as follows:

- 5 1. A garden weed barrier and watering apparatus comprising:
a flexible sheet of vapor-permeable material, said sheet having reinforced
outer edges and openings in said sheet for garden plant stems to
extend therethrough;
means for weighting said edges to secure said sheet to the ground; and
a fluid-permeable tube secured to a lower surface of said sheet for
10 delivering fluid to ground proximate to garden plants.
2. The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1
wherein said sheet comprises a non-woven polymer film.
3. The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1
wherein said sheet comprises a perforated sheet or a woven or non-woven textile
15 material.
4. The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1
wherein said sheet comprises felted fibers of thermoplastic material.
5. The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1
wherein said edges are reinforced by double layers of said sheet secured by means
20 selected from the group consisting of adhesive, tape, stitching, and heat bonding.
6. The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1
wherein said edges have holes therein for accepting stakes or staples to provide
additional retention of said apparatus against the surface of the ground.
7. The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1
25 wherein said openings are substantially rectangular.

8. The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1 wherein said openings are arranged in one or more substantially parallel rows.

9. The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1 wherein said openings are substantially circular.

5 10. The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1 wherein said means for weighting is selected from the group consisting of metal bars, metal tubes, rubber bars, rubber tubes, plastic bars, plastic tubes, metal cable, rope and sand.

10 11. The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1 wherein said sheet is substantially opaque.

12. The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1 wherein said openings are arranged in one or more concentric rings.

15 13. The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 1 wherein said tube further comprises means for restricting flow of fluid therethrough.

14. The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 13 wherein said means for restricting comprises a flat plastic disk positioned within said tube and of sufficient external diameter to occlude flow of fluid through said tube, said disk further comprising an aperture in the center of said disk.

20 15. The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 13 wherein said means for restricting comprises a conical flow restrictor comprising a cone having a flange projecting from the base of said cone and an axial bore through the longitudinal center of said conical flow restrictor.

16. A garden weed barrier and watering apparatus comprising:
landscape fabric having edge portions weighted to retain said fabric in a
selected position upon the ground,
openings within said fabric for receiving garden plants, and
5 a water-permeable tube attached to the underside of said fabric.

17. The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 16
wherein said tube has segments thereof attached in close proximity to
corresponding openings.

18. The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 16
10 wherein said edge portions comprise weights secured within edge pockets.

19. The garden weed barrier and watering apparatus of claim 17
wherein said openings are partially defined by respective portions of said tube.

20. A method of gardening whereby weeds are suppressed
through obstruction of sunlight, and fluids are delivered to garden plants via a
15 conduit, the method comprising the steps of:
providing an opaque vapor-permeable sheet having weighted outer edges
and having openings for garden plants to extend therethrough,
attaching a fluid-permeable conduit to the underside of the sheet,
applying the sheet to an area of ground, and
20 directing water to the conduit for flow therethrough at intervals selected for
encouraging plant growth.